

WASHINGTON - Today, Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) strongly urged the U.S. House of Representatives to pass an amendment to increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

"Tens of millions of families in America are in for bad news this winter when they get their heating bills," Olver said.

According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), the price of heating oil and natural gas has risen sharply in recent months.

"These increased costs couldn't come at a worse time," Olver said. "Since 2001, the number of families in poverty has increased by more than 5 million."

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is the primary program that provides financial assistance to low-income households to pay their energy bills.

Congressman Bernie Sanders (I-VT) is the lead sponsor of the amendment to increase funding for LIHEAP.

"This amendment would provide modest, but important relief to thousands of families," Olver said.

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